

transmitted to the other subscriber lines which are preset in this group. Each subscriber to the group can then receive this call. Each of the subscribers in the group can also receive calls parked in the system. The subscribers to the CENTREX group can also have a common call number schedule which can be used by all the subscriber lines. However, in the prior art, it is possible to use the CENTREX service and other services known on voice connections, such as three-way conferencing, call transfer, call play-back, subscriber cut-in, recorded announcement services and private call number schedule, only in a line-switching communications network. According to the H.323/H.450 Standard, these services are not supported for voice connections using the packet-switching communications network, or not to the same extent.

The administration of the subscribers and the administration of the services and of the features of the subscribers is carried out in the prior art using control units of the packet-switching communications network for subscribers to packet-switching communications networks, and using control units of the line-switching communications network for subscribers to the line-switching communications network. The administration of the subscribers and the administration of the services and features made available to the subscribers are generally referred to as subscriber administration.

In the prior art, a subscriber to a line-switching communications network must be logged on and administered both in a connection controller and in a service feature and feature controller. This is carried out using two separate program modules which are processed on an administration computer of the telecommunications system. The administration of some features, for example the administration of CENTREX groups, requires further program modules which are used to administer the respective feature for the respective subscriber. These program modules are executed on different service computers. In the event of a change to a feature for which it is also necessary to adapt the connection controller, it is necessary in the prior art for settings to be made in two different program modules. These program modules do not exchange any data with one another and

usually have different user interfaces. As a result, not only is complex training of operators necessary but also double input of subscriber data. Furthermore, the data items which are input must be matched to one another because otherwise errors and faults can occur. Administration using these different program modules is usually

5 carried out in the prior art from a central location of the network operator, the administration data being transmitted from the individual program modules to the switching offices which carry out the connection control and the control of the features for the subscriber.

Subscriber administration of subscribers to packet-switching

10 communications networks is carried out in a way similar to the subscriber administration of subscribers to a line-switching communications network. For example, the access rights of subscribers who dial into the packet-switching communications network using a dialed connection are administered and monitored using a "RADIUS" server, and the administration of the connection controller and

15 of the features is performed using a gatekeeper. RADIUS servers (remote authentication dial-in user) are used for remote identification of users who dial into the packet-switching communications network using a line-switching communications network, for example. In order to make available services and features for such a subscriber, it is also necessary in the packet-switching

20 communications network to make settings for subscriber administration in two different program modules, these program modules usually having different user interfaces and not being connected to one another. Subscriber administration with conventional administration methods is very complex and unwieldy, particularly in the case of subscribers with a number of subscriber lines; for example, in the case

25 of companies whose employees are combined in network-wide CENTREX groups which are connected both to the line-switching communications network and to the packet-switching communications network at different locations with different connection methods.

An object of the present invention, therefore, is to specify a method and a

30 telecommunications system for subscriber administration in different

telecommunications networks, in which subscriber administration is possible in a simple and clearly organized way.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a method for subscriber administration in different
5 communications networks pursuant to the teachings of the present invention, it is possible to administer the subscribers to line-switching communications networks and the subscribers to packet-switching communications networks jointly in a centralized fashion, and to set service features and features of the individual subscribers in a clearly organized way using a uniform user interface. The operators
10 do not need to be informed as to whether individual subscribers are subscribers to the packet-switching communications network or of the line-switching communications network. This is also a way of setting in a simple and clearly organized way services and features for subscribers to the packet-switching communications network which are made available to these subscribers using
15 network elements of the line-switching communications network. The need to train the operators on a number of program modules for subscriber administration and to reconcile data between these program modules is dispensed with. The subscriber administration can be carried out from a central location of the network operator. The setting information is transmitted using the administration connections
20 provided in the respective communications networks. Such a connection is, for example, an X.25 connection or an IP connection with file transfer (FTP connection).

In an embodiment of the present invention, the controller is a superordinate controller of the first and second control units. This ensures that the first and second
25 control units set the service features and other features in accordance with the setting information of the controller.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the subscriber signaling of the second subscriber is carried out using a network element of the line-switching communications network. The network element has an interface to the packet-
30 switching communications network. In this way, services and features of the line-